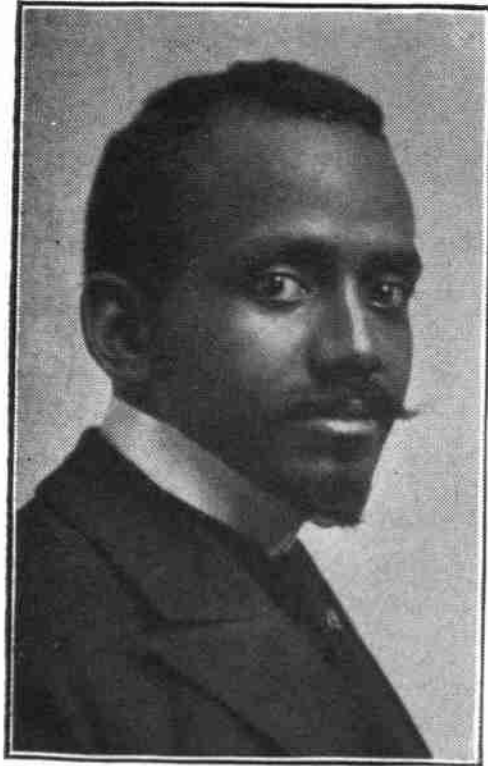


Noah Davis Thompson

Chicago, Ill.

MR. THOMPSON is a special representative and solicitor for the United States Express Company. He was sent to the convention of the National Negro Business League, Louisville, Ky., in August, 1909, by the express company, whose general superintendent referred to him as "an enterprising young man who for nearly twenty years has been in the confidential employ of the company which he represents."



N. D. Thompson

He was born in Baltimore in 1874. After receiving a common school education he went to Chicago and entered the employ of the express company as office boy. He supplemented his education in the night schools, with private instruction in German and in stenography.

In 1900 he was offered the appointment as sergeant-at-arms of the American Commission to the Paris Exposition. He declined because he believed that he could give his attention to making a success along commercial lines that would benefit and inspire other ambitious Negroes.

He believed that positions could be created for his people, provided he could succeed in getting the well-to-do members of his race to deal principally with merchants who gave employment to Negroes.

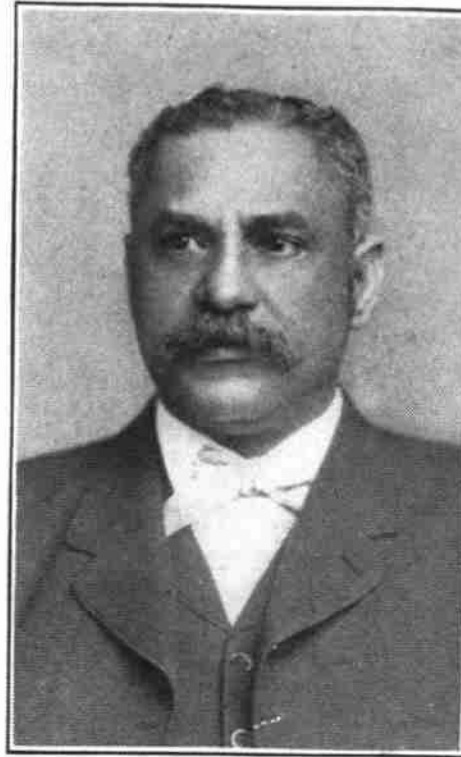
The owner of one of the large department stores in Chicago appointed him general solicitor for the store, and a large number of colored men and women were given employment by the manager as an experiment. Another department store manager, realizing the cause of the loss of a large number of colored patrons, tried to regain them by displacing thirty or more white elevator conductors by colored men, and otherwise giving employment to Negroes.

Mr. Thompson says, "The day is not far distant when employers throughout the country will find it to their best interest to put all of their employees under a form of civil service examination and to engage only persons of good character and intelligence, and to promote them according to their efficiency, irrespective of color or creed."

Henry A. Rucker

Atlanta, Ga.

MR. RUCKER is collector of Internal Revenue for the District of Georgia. He was born November 15, 1852, in Washington, Ga., the seventh of fourteen children. In order to be near her husband, who was a slave in another family, Mrs. Rucker moved to Atlanta with the children "in the latter fifties."



H. A. Rucker

He attended the Storrs School at Atlanta, one of the first schools established by the American Missionary Association for Freedmen. He was a full-grown man when he was able to take up regular class work at Atlanta University, pursuing his studies there until his sophomore year. He turned his attention to medicine, studying in the office of one of Atlanta's best-known physicians.

He became interested in politics and attended the Chicago convention at Chicago in 1880. He was made store-keeper and gauger in the Internal Revenue Service of Georgia by President Garfield. Soon after his appointment as store-keeper, he was promoted to a clerkship and put in charge of the bonded account, seizures and sales of condemned property, and reports of storekeepers, gaugers, and distillers. During the administrations of President Cleveland, Mr. Rucker did not leave the government service, but rotated in subordinate positions. He is now collector of internal revenue, having been appointed by President McKinley and continued in office by ex-President Roosevelt and President Taft.

During his term as collector and disbursing agent he has also been custodian of the government building at Atlanta. The office has always maintained a high standard.

He has been a delegate to four National Republican Conventions, twice delegate-at-large, representing the state of Georgia, and is considered a leader among his people in affairs that may be considered of a political character.

He attributes whatever success he has attained "to the patient, painstaking care of his praying mother, and to the gentle influences of Christian teachers, and the excellent, self-sacrificing economy of a good home-loving wife."